

Dec. 12. 2006 3:43PM

No. 0298. P. 2

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE TO THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR § 1.8(D).

on December 12, 2006

[Signature]

Robert O'Flynn O'Brien, Reg. No. 35,829

December 12, 2006

Date of Signature

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )  
Mary Jean Cash )  
Patrick J. Cowan )  
Gijsbert Kroon )  
Serial No.: 10/722,888 ) Group Art Unit: 1623  
Filed: November 26, 2003 ) Examiner: Roy P. Issac  
For: Soluble, Associative Carboxymethylcellulose, )  
Method of Making, And Uses Thereof )

MAIL STOP: Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION**

Sir:

Pursuant to the Restriction Requirement contained in the Office Action dated October 12, 2006, applicants provisionally elect claims of Group I i.e., claims 1-3 and 7-8 drawn to a composition comprising carboxymethylcellulose, for continued prosecution herein.

Claims 1-31 are present in the above-identified application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121. Specifically, the Office Action takes the position that following inventions are present in the claims:

Group I, claims 1-3 and 7-8, drawn to a composition comprising carboxymethylcellulose classified in class 504, sub-class 101; Group II, claims 4-6 drawn to a method of making carboxymethylcellulose composition, classified in class 504, sub-class 57.

- 1 -

It is the Examiner's position that the inventions listed in Groups I, II, III and IV are distinct from each other.

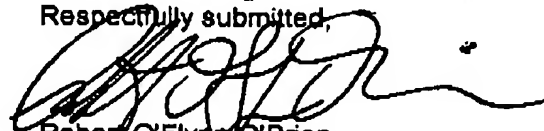
In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I, claims 1-3 and 7-8.

Applicants hereby reserve the right under 35 USC §121 to file one or more divisional applicants directed to the non-elected claims contained in this specification.

This response is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time, extending the period of response until December 12, 2006.

In view of the forgoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert O'Flynn O'Brien  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 35,629

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December 12, 2006

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**Message (if any):** US - DKT 10290

**Appln No.:** 10/722,888  
**November 26, 2003**  
**Title:** Soluble, Associative Carboxymethylcellulose, Method of Making, And Uses Thereof  
**Our Ref:** DKT 10290  
**Inventors:** Cash, Cowan & Kroon

**Attached:** Response to Requirement for Restriction

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